



GOD LOVE

IF WE DO OUR BEST

EMMA C. DOWD

What if thy plot in the garden of life
Is stony and poor and small!
What if it will not yield for thee
Roses and lilies tall!

'Tis the plot the Gardener gave to thee;
Tend it with loyal care.
And in the wonderful harvest-time
Who knows what it may bear?

If only one fair, immortal fruit
Perfects beneath thy touch—
"He that is faithful in that which is
least
Is faithful also in much."

—Poems of Pep and Point for Public Speakers

THE GROUND OF

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
Revelation 2:10d.

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Notices

I am now in evangelistic work. If you would like to have me for a revival, you may get in touch with me at Dorothy, W. Va. — Herbert W. Roach.

I am in the evangelistic work and am now ready for calls. I have had several years in evangelistic work and have had many wonderful experiences serving the Lord.—Isalah I. Putnam, Rt. 3, Lincolnton, N. C.

I am a God-called preacher and preach the gospel as the Spirit of God puts it on my heart. If you want me for a revival, you may write me at the following.—Evan. Marie Richardson, Rt. 1, Mocksville, N. C.

New Mexico State Convention

The New Mexico state convention will convene at Roswell, N. Mex., June 17-23. We give our friends a special invitation to attend.—L. H. Aulman, state overseer, Box 1206, Roswell, N. Mex.

The Church of God on the Air

Each Sunday, 7:30 to 8:00, the church at Princeton, N. C., Rev. C. H. Fuller, pastor.

DEATHS

MILES

On the evening of January 29, 1946, Sister Elizabeth Miles departed this life to be with Jesus, age sixty-two years, four months, and twenty-four days. She was a faithful and beloved member of the Church of God at Northfork, W. Va.—Pastor, M. E. Parks, Eckman, W. Va.

ALVERD

Joseph A. Alverd, a charter member of the Manatee, Fla., Church of God, departed this life March 3, 1946. He was faithful till death.—His pastor, J. B. Ellis, Jr.

FEARSON

Floyd M. C. Fearson departed this life to receive his reward with the redeemed of the Lord. He was a faithful member of the Church of God at Greenville, Miss.; also was serving as Sunday School superintendent.—His pastor, Rev. A. B. Everett, Box 583, Greenville, Miss.

ROY

Sister Betty Roy, charter member of the Church of God at Hubball,

W. Va., passed away January 30, 1946. She was eighty-seven years of age.—Mrs. Dora Terrell, clerk, Branchland, W. Va.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

PRAY FOR:

The healing of my mother of arthritis, she cannot treat it for high acid, which makes her very nervous.—Sister Lucile Ricketts, Earle, Ark.

The Lord to give me complete victory over a sickness which I have.—Mrs. Margie J. Stiles, Rt. 1, Box 73, Murphy, N. C.

The healing of my mother and brothers; God to deliver me of a habit.—Mrs. W. H. Hobbs, Radford, Va.

My little girl to be healed of severe spells of headache, also a hurting in her left side.—Mrs. Willie Sims, Rt. 2, Gadsden, Ala.

The Lord to heal my body.—Mrs. Ada Shrewsbury, Rock, W. Va.

The healing of my body.—Maude Wade, Resaca, Ga.

God to undertake for a man and his family.—Mildred Atkins, Jenkinjones, W. Va.

The healing of my daughter who is afflicted in body. Encouragement appreciated.—Mrs. Mary Brinkley, Homerville, Ga.

The healing of Rev. William Melson, he has lost his mind and is at the present time in the asylum at Norman, Okla.—Mrs. Paul J. Brown, Rt. 1, Pratt, Kans.

The healing of my body, I am seriously ill.—Sister Nancy Jane Hamm, Rt. 1, Winter Haven, Fla.

The Lord to completely heal my body.—Miss Elora Kennedy, Rt. 5, Shelby, N. C.

The Lord to heal me of a cancer.—Sister Emma Newman, 658 Avenue G, Birmingham 8, Ala.

The healing of Sister Myrtle Mushagan's body.—Mrs. Ogletree, Tricity, Calif.

The Lord to heal my baby of the rickets, it seems he cannot live unless the Lord undertakes.—Sister Mary Bell Devoe, Box 11, Sharpes, Fla.

The Lord to heal my head, it is so serious I am unable to carry on my pastoral work, and at times I cannot stand up. I am aware of a constant drawing feeling on the brain. I know God can heal completely.—Fred C. Garner, pastor, Hickory Grove, S. C.

God to heal my knees, left foot and ankle, I can hardly walk at all.—Miss Zola Pearl Hand, 342 3rd Ave., N. W., Cairo, Ga.

The healing of my daughter, Thelma.—Mrs. Lona Mosteller, Rt. 3, Greer, S. C.

A girl to be healed of sinus trouble.—Mrs. H. W. Beggerly, 81 Jackson Ave., Schoolfield, W. Va.

Me to be healed of arthritis and other trouble.—Russell North, 286 Elm St., Pontiac, Mich.

The healing of my body.—Mollie Wilson, 204 Devenport St., Stamford, Tex.

My son who is in service; my family.—Mrs. Edith Laird, 507 N. Broadway, Natchez, Miss.

The healing of my body. I have a blood clot on my heart caused from injury received in a car wreck.—R. O. Woodruff, San Antonio, Tex.

God to heal my body, and make a way for me to attend church.—Mrs. Sam Cook, Homerville, Ga.

The Lord to undertake for me, my daughter, and her family.—Mrs. J. E. Austin, 514 11th St., Albany, Ga.

God to heal my daughter's eyes and nerves; special request.—Mrs. L. A. Doss, 418 Wagner St., Danville, Va.

The healing of my body.—Minnie Myrtle St., Gainesville, Ga.

God to heal my sister, my son, and myself.—Mrs. Jimie Shellon, 532 W. Myrtle St., Gainesville, Ga.

My healing of arthritis; the healing of my husband.—Mrs. M. E. Williams, 533 Cooper St., S. W., Atlanta, Ga.

THE CHURCH OF GOD EVANGEL

Common Sense About Building Programs

By Horace McCracken

Examples from Various Pentecostal Churches

FIRST GROUP

Pastor A had been at a downtown mission location for two years in an upstairs hall seating perhaps 500. Membership had grown rapidly since he started the work until both Sunday School and church services were crowding all the available space, with unquestionably more people receiving salvation, healing, and the Baptism than any other church in the city. He rented another upstairs hall, prepared it for 1,100, later enlarged it to 1,500, subsequently bought the entire building, paying all bills currently. Within two years they were crowding the main auditorium on Sundays and are talking about buying a larger building.

Pastor B had taken a church of about 300 capacity and possibly 100 attendance. He built the Sunday School up to over 200 and added Sunday School rooms. The audience grew to consistently more than 300 so that he sometimes had to urge some of the Christians to stay away so sinners could get in, and he is planning a new building as early as possible.

Pastor C held meetings in homes for a few months, was having people saved and filled with the Holy Spirit and was crowding the meetings with twenty-five or thirty people. They started a building of approximately 180 capacity, with provision for the addition of Sunday School rooms as needed, and paid all bills as they went. The church was completed in a year or so, dozens were saved and baptized, and Sunday School and services grew to around 125 attendance. Sunday School rooms were added. Then attendance stopped growing, so I will refer to pastor C again in the second group.

Pastor D held meetings in the basement of a home for six months or a year; membership grew from one or two families to forty or fifty persons,

as many as could get in. He built a church of perhaps 200 seating capacity, and four Sunday School rooms, paid for by the time the building was finished. Attendance continued to grow for some months, until other factors not relevant here entered.

Pastor E held meetings for about half a year in a portable tabernacle that was in a poor location. The tabernacle would seat perhaps 150; attendance had grown from around ten or fifteen to thirty or forty. They had an opportunity to buy a building in an excellent location, seating capacity around 250, and half a dozen Sunday School rooms. In the new building the attendance continued to grow slowly to around fifty and then to seventy-five, and the debt was systematically reduced and finally eliminated.

SECOND GROUP

Pastor C's attendance grew to fairly near the capacity of the building and then levelled off, though he seemingly failed to recognize that fact. Months and revivals went by with virtually no one saved or filled with the Holy Spirit, no permanent increase in attendance. But, because the attendance was good and financial conditions reasonably prosperous, he mistook activity for progress, like a person climbing a descending escalator. He wanted to keep right on building, was refused by the board, finally did persuade the church to spend \$3,500 on a parsonage. Attendance dropped to "the old guard," has remained at a standstill ever since.

Pastor F held meetings in a poorly heated and unsightly tabernacle for a year or year and a half; attendance grew from ten or fifteen to twenty-five or thirty, then remained there month after month. He felt that it was the building that was keeping people away, started a money-raising program to build a "\$5,000" church; ultimately sold the tabernacle (which did not belong to him), and undertook the building program. He started the basement for the church approximately 40x60 feet, I should estimate, and partitioned off one end of the basement to hold meetings in temporarily. The attendance still did not

grow, and the money did not come in. One year, two years later they were still holding meetings and Sunday School in the same partition of the basement, with the weathered floor for a roof and the forlorn studs presenting an unsightly white elephant to the many passers-by.

Pastor G pioneered a work, starting in homes, then a rented hall, growing moderately to possibly 100 attendance in approximately four years' time. He started a building program with a lower-story stone basement, roughly 50x75 feet, which is to serve as the foundation for the main auditorium upstairs. The basement—ultimately for Sunday School rooms—is now used as an auditorium of perhaps 300 capacity, with attendance fluctuating around 150 and apparently not growing. Evidences of compromise with worldly fashion are freely in evidence, their prayer service is short, and a person prayed up and in tune with the Holy Spirit feels a lack of the conviction and power of God. But the stubby, sawed-off church sits there, a mute master. The pastor can't admit that he planned too big and just put a roof on the floor, even if he realizes that after eight years, his audience is only half-filling the auditorium he now has. So he is burdening his people with drives for thousands and thousands of dollars, laying it away in the bank so that as quickly as materials are available they can finish their beautiful and pride-satisfying building. Well, at least he is to be commended for laying the money in advance.

SUMMARY

According to the above and extensive other observations, the following conclusions commend themselves to my present judgment:

1. Most important: An expansion program is never justified unless the attendance is growing.
2. Almost without exception, the churches that I consider to have been in the best states of spirituality have largely paid for their building programs as they went. If the program is in proportion to the need, this should usually be possible.

(Continued on page 14)

RELIGION... and the World

BY THE EDITOR

The Atomic Bomb and Spies

If you doubt the world is headed for more trouble, you have but to take into account the fact of so many spies now being hunted down in Europe, who have sought to get hold of evidence concerning the atomic bomb. The F.B.I., with its brilliant forces, is hard at the task of finding out who, what, where, and when concerning the possible "leakage" of this scientific evidence. Be sure, it was not friends seeking this information. The question is, Was it Russia? Molotov said, "Russia will also have an atomic bomb." I wrote the above yesterday. This morning the press stated that Russia has admitted that an effort had been made to obtain information from Canadian scientists. This is that Russia we have made our ally, our comrade, our model, and whom we have favored so liberally. Russia has again dipped into the sop with Uncle Sam. Yes, we have known that as a nation she had not really changed.

London and Crime

A report coming out of London, December 21, states that, "Harold Scott, police commissioner of metropolitan London, disclosed today that crimes in 1945 increased 35.7 per cent over 1938, the last peace year.

"Police records also showed a 26.5 per cent increase over 1944 on the basis of cases handled up to December 1."

Increase Crime Proves Bible

A report from Washington by United Press, dated March 2, states that Atty. Gen. Tom Clark reported that the largest annual increase in crime in fifteen years took place during 1945. F.B.I. reports, he said, showed an increase in crime of 12.3 per cent over 1944. "These crimes totaled about 1,565,541 during 1945, compared with 1,393,655 in 1944, representing a total of 4,289 serious crimes committed daily. Clark said the report showed that murder and non-negligent manslaughter increased 4.5 per cent in 1945 over 1944; manslaughter by negligence, 16 per cent; rape 5.7 per cent; robbery 23.9 per cent; aggravated assault 9.1 per cent; burglary 17.3 per cent; larceny 8.7 per cent; auto theft

18.9 per cent. The Scripture teaches that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived," 2 Tim. 3:13. Crime is the evidence that the world is morally retrograding. Whatever science is doing to make the world better is not improving it morally.

God's Love, John 3:16

1. Emphatically—God is love. 2. The fact of His love—He so loved. 3. The world—the object of His love. 4. That He gave—as a proof of His love. 5. His only begotten Son. 6. The scope of His love—that whosoever. 7. The requirements of love—believeth. 8. The results of His love—should not perish. 9. The provision of His love—everlasting life. 10. A reminder and renewer of His love—the Holy Ghost, Rom. 5:5.

A Spiritual Combine

The president of the Federal Council of Churches and other leaders have, according to *The Methodist Challenge*, proposed a "merger of Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, and the Greek Catholic Church."

Sunday School Want Ad

A church at Buffalo, N. Y., observing that "want ads" were run for houses, automobiles, and many other things, inserted the following: "Wanted—Parents to bring their children to Cleveland Evangelical Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:30 a. m. for Christian training and Bible study. Classes for all ages." A valuable point of contact.

Little Things

Robert Leach, of Manchester, went over the Niagara Falls in a barrel, only to die as a result of slipping on an orange peel in Auckland, N. Z. He escaped a terrible death only to become the victim of a "little thing." See Prov. 6:10; 24:23.

God As An Artist

When springtime comes, one is amazed at the beauty of nature. As the beautiful shrubbery and foliage springs forth, the work of God as an artist can be seen. God, in His conception of art, brings not only the finals of art into conception, but literally revels in the fact that He produces art with life in it. Artists of our times

are not like that. They copy and rehearse backward and forward, with little of their work as a conception; and, beautiful as some of it is, the saddest thing is that none of it has life in it. The God of nature revealed the beauty of art in nature itself.

Prayer and Patience Needed

Dr. Jowett, of Westminster Chapel, expressed to his friend, Dr. Berry, his difficulty in knowing how to act in a certain situation. "What would you do if you were I?" he asked. "I really don't know," said Dr. Berry. "What day is today?" "Tuesday." "When must you give an answer?" "Friday." "Wait on the Lord," said Dr. Berry. On Friday the answer came (Psa. 27:14). Ministers are oftentimes too busy, planning, and keeping engagements, sometimes too indifferent to wait upon God. They, therefore, often miss God's will for them and have troubles, not with the other fellow, but with the man who counts your own money.

An Admission and Prediction

Methodist Challenge states that, "Gradually the British Empire is being liquidated. Already her government is in the hands of a variety of national socialism into which Russia has poured her stream of influence. France is under Russian control. Greece is being taken over. The whole Balkan picture is Russian. Italy is certain to go with the rest of Europe. Korea is largely under Russian control. Undoubtedly, there is an understanding between the Chinese and Russian governments by which Russia is to be given free rein. Russia has forced her way into the control of Japan.

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JERUSALEM . . .

The Biblical Center of the Nations

"Thus saith the Lord God; this is Jerusalem: I have set it in the *midst* of the nations and countries that are round about her," Ezek. 5:5. Here the Holy Spirit unequivocally states that Jerusalem, the capital city of Palestine, is in the midst or center of the nations. This simply means that rulers or nations of the north or south are north or south of Jerusalem or Palestine. Fourteen times in Daniel eleven we read of "the king of the north or south." How is Jerusalem "in the midst of nations"? Because nearly three-fourths of the land surface of the globe lies around her. It is also the center of population, there being eight times more people living in lands contiguous to her than in all the rest of the world combined.

Palestine has been called "the bridge" or "gateway" between the three great continents, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Our wonderful Savior was born there, and drenched that sacred soil with His precious blood. It was there He defeated Satan, and from there He arose triumphant out of death and majestically ascended to the Father's right hand. When He again returns to earth, His blessed nail-pierced feet will rest on Palestinian soil—the Mount of Olives. Jerusalem will be the center of His governmental reign for one thousand years. Palestine might well be designated the center of wealth, for scientists estimate the wealth of the Dead Sea alone at \$1,270,000,000,000. This is said to be three times the wealth of the U.S.A. It may be a dead sea, but it is alive with mineral wealth.

PALESTINE IS LIKE A DIAMOND

in the rough. Valuable? Yes, but wait until the Master Craftsman develops her full luster, then "the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose" (Isa. 35:1). With these facts in mind, do you wonder that Palestine is envied by covetous nations "round about her"? More battles have been fought and more blood has been shed on Palestinian soil than on any other small country in the world. According to Ezek. 38 and 39 she will again become the battleground for the mightiest armies ever assembled. Already the black

By CLIFTON T. UMSTEAD
in *Light and Liberty*

shadow of Russia, the bear that walks like a man, is creeping ever closer to "the land in the midst of the nations." Like a giant octopus, Russia's mighty tentacles have encircled much of Europe, and according to Ezek. 38:2, "Gog, the chief prince of Meshech (Moscow)," will be guard or commander (see margin of v. 7), of the greatest fighting machine ever assembled. They will come "like a cloud out of the north parts" (north of Jerusalem), probably with thousands of airplanes and parachutes, to cover the (holy) land."

But who is "Gog" their leader? According to Strong, he is as yet an undeterminable character. This is not strange, for He who "declared the end from the beginning," often named men before birth. Josiah, a good King, was named 300 years before birth (1 Kings 13:2). Our Lord's name and character were given 740 years before His birth (Isa. 6:9 and Luke 1:31). What nations will comprise this vast army? We dare not go beyond Scripture which names them as Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer (Germany), and Togmarah" (a son of Gomer) (Ezek. 38:5, 6). Russia, under the leadership of Gog, will head this confederacy. Notice, verse 6 says of both Gomer and Togarmah, "and all their bands, and many people with thee." This might mean Russia's satellites—the Balkans and others. So great is this battle that seven months is required to bury the dead and seven years to burn the wood. Laminated wood is now used and is stronger than iron by test.

Gomer is first mentioned in Gen. 10: 2, and according to historians settled near what is now Germany.

HOW DID GOMER BECOME GERMANY?

Names have often been changed. St. Petersburg was changed to Petrograd, and then to Leningrad. Read Num. 32: 38. Saul was changed to Paul, etc. Was it not Russia's aim in this battle

to rob—"to take a spoil"? This is the same Russia whose bloody hand we grasped in World War II. Has Russia changed? "Can the leopard change his spots"? It has been said that in five years Russia liquidated over a million people in her realm, to keep Joseph Stalin in power, many of them Jews.

Her next bloody chapter will be the attempted rape and plunder of the holy land. The pendulum of the prophetic clock is swinging far to the left, as "coming events cast their shadows." It is common knowledge that we shipped oil and scrap metal to Japan, but did you know that we bought and shipped whole cracking plants to Russia? Since occupying Germany, she has shipped thousands of tons of Germany's finest machines to her own land, beside thousands of captured trucks, cannon, etc. In celebrating, Russia's red flag flies high over their red square. Red banners float over the streets, and even the lamp-posts are painted red.

In the Revelation, almost everything connected with the antichrist is red. The beast is said to be scarlet (red) colored (Rev. 17:3). His whole kingdom will be red. And Rev. 18:16 says: "That great city was clothed in purple and scarlet" (red). It was Lenin's desire to rule over a red world, but today, although worshiped as a deity, his mummified body lies in a glass case in the Kremlin. The woman of Rev. 17:2,3, drunk with the blood of the saints, "sits on a scarlet (red) colored beast." Why all this red? Because the "great red dragon" is in the driver's seat of world affairs. Little wonder monarchs tremble and crowns topple in the mad shuffle of world-shaking events, and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity. "Perplexity" in the Greek simply means "no way out" (Luke 21:25).

Are we not led to think that near the end of the great tribulation, Russia, with our lend-lease equipment, plus train loads of cannon and other fighting machinery, will begin her march, with her many satellites, on the Holy Land? Is not this the battle of Armageddon—the last great battle be-

(Continued on page 14)

The Blessings

By Chester Shuler

The great evangelist Charles Finney once said, "Nothing in the whole realm of the Christian life is quite so difficult, so rarely attained as a *praying heart*. Without it, you are as weak as weakness itself; with it, you are irresistible. If you lose your spirit of prayer, you will do next to nothing for God, even though you may have the intellectual endowments of an angel. Frequent seasons of secret prayer are wholly indispensable to keeping up an intercourse with God. The Lord preserve His Church from the guidance and influence of men who do not know how to pray!"

Have you ever thought about a praying heart? Perhaps not. We do not often see or hear the term used these days. And yet the history of the Christian church is replete with thrilling incidents concerning folks who possessed

A PRAYING HEART

and allowed it to have its way in their lives every moment. Some years ago, a devout pastor serving a small church in a Georgia town, seeing that his sermons and public prayers seemed to avail so little in the salvation of souls, left his bed one night and walked forth into the darkness of the town. He knelt down on the sidewalk in front of each house and prayed fervently for those who were unsaved. Some folks wondered why the revival fires burned so brightly in the next evangelistic meeting held in that town, when many were saved. But only God—and a certain policeman who happened to see the pastor at prayer, but who said nothing about it until months later—knew the probable reason.

Without a truly praying heart that pastor would have had just a nominal meeting in his little church. But his praying heart would not allow him to sleep contentedly while his people were spiritually dead. God loved this faithful servant and rewarded him even in this life. He loves every faithful servant, and he who goes "forth with weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with re-

of a "Praying Heart"

joicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:6).

THE LORD'S PRAYER

is beautiful. It was given to us by the Saviour Himself. It is used the world around by Christians. But unless we have a praying heart at all times, and really express in these beautiful words the true feelings and desires of our hearts, it is quite possible merely to SAY the words—and to be thinking of something quite foreign to prayer! There is always great danger of doing this when a group of people are asked to "repeat" this prayer. How often this is done! Jesus didn't say, "After this manner SAY ye..." But He did say, "After this manner therefore PRAY ye..." (Matt. 6:9).

We once heard a Christian layman relate a most embarrassing experience which came to him in a prayer service. He was suddenly called upon to lead in prayer, and "to repeat the Lord's Prayer in closing." He stated that he uttered a few hastily-constructed petitions of his own making, then began to REPEAT the Lord's Prayer...his mind busy meantime with thoughts of the people around him, his sudden call to prayer, and the like. He did not just then possess a praying heart...he had recently had some differences with an acquaintance; his was hardly the spirit of prayer at that moment...and so when he came to the "repeating" of the Lord's Prayer, he did just that! Suddenly, he found that his mind had gone blank, in the middle of the prayer! "Give us this day our daily bread, and—" he repeated the words, in great embarrassment. The words would not come. His confusion grew greater. Finally, after an awkward silence, he

*You'll never "find" the time to pray,
You'll surely have to make it;
The tempter's always in the way
To cause you to forsake it.*

*But if you "make" some time each day
To talk with God above,
You'll find that praying isn't hard,
But something you will love.*

was forced to utter an embarrassed "Amen," and end it all.

"I tell you," he said, later, "that was the finest lesson in prayer and praying—and about 'saying'—that I have ever had! To this day, I tremble slightly every time I try to use the Lord's Prayer in public. And I don't think that I have ever REPEATED it mechanically since then, either. In fact, I try never to SAY its words, unless I can at the moment sincerely make its every petition my very own. I think there is positive danger in SAYING that prayer, beautiful and meaningful as it is."

A BASKET OF GRAPES

served to teach a very fine lesson to a lady last autumn. Chancing to look over the fence just as a neighbor was working among his grapevines, she exclaimed in admiration, "What lovely grapes you have this season!"

"Yes, they are doing nicely," the man replied. "Would you enjoy some of them?"

"I should be most grateful for some," the poor lady answered.

"Hand me a basket, then, and you shall have them."

The neighbor took her basket and disappeared among the vines. He was gone so long a time that the poor lady almost thought he wasn't going to keep his promise at all. But after a while he returned. The basket was filled with the very finest of the crop. "I'm sorry to make you wait so long," the man said, kindly, "but you see the longer you had to wait the better grapes I could give you. I picked these out, here and there, with great care. They are the choicest grapes in the vineyard today."

Thanking him heartily, the lady re-

turned to her house. "My, my," she exclaimed, "how like my dear heavenly Parent! And then, sometimes, I'm quite impatient with waiting for the answer to my prayers. I hope this may teach me a lasting lesson!"

The praying heart soon learns that God doesn't always answer prayers the same hour they are made! But the praying heart is not easily discouraged or disheartened, either...it simply keeps on trusting, and praying, knowing that the Giver of Gifts may be taking time to "choose the choicest" blessings to send in answer to those petitions...for He "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ASK or THINK..." (Eph. 3:20.)

THE SECRET

of the praying heart is often revealed best to those in great need, or in danger, or distress. A friend of ours who is a missionary in India and who, for some thirty years, has labored faithfully in the jungle country, faithfully holding forth the Word of Life, knows this secret very well. She prays literally "without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17) for the work and for those with whom she labors. But her prayers are like powerful siege-guns which she trains into the skies in the direction of America!

She has learned the secret of being able, by God's grace and through His power, to move hearts "over here" in America—hearts of faith-filled, faithful, praying-hearted Christians, who hear when they detect the still, small voice bearing the message that help is needed in that portion of the great India field.

This deeply consecrated Christian lady has thus caused hundreds, even thousands, of dollars to find their way to India for the cause of missions, which dollars otherwise would never have been given for the Lord's work. They were dollars which were sent because folks with Spirit-sensitized, praying hearts in America heard the call sent forth by way of heaven's radio by a praying heart on the field. By comparing notes with this missionary, friends back home have found that on the very day they received the "call" to send funds for her use in the field, she was definitely praying for help, and laying before the Throne *their names!*

Yes, praying-hearted Christians can be used of God, because they WANT to be used!

However, as Mr. Finney so aptly put it, "Nothing in the whole realm of the Christian life is quite so difficult, so

rarely attained, as a praying heart." Such heart is

A PRICELESS POSSESSION

and all the more valuable because it is so rare, and so useful to God. How inspiring to find a young person who possesses a praying heart! How different from the experience and testimony of a man of seventy-eight summers, who, when finally converted to the Lord, exclaimed, "I'm a feeble old man who has SAID his prayers for some seventy years...but who never PRAYED at all!" A girl of fourteen was converted in a meeting some time ago, and when she was later conversing about her conversion and expressing her great joy in the Lord, she exclaimed, "It's almost too much for me to believe—that I, a mere girl, may talk with my heavenly Father WHENEVER I WISH TO! And isn't it precious—this fellowship in prayer?"

DEFINITE PRAYERS

usually bring definite answers. Too

much of our praying is "general" and so hackneyed and prosaic that definite answers seem almost impossible—and are probably unexpected. On the other hand, the Christian with a praying heart gets answers to his prayers.

Private prayers are usually easier to make, and more effective than public ones. It is more difficult to ask freely in public for the things we really desire than when in the closets of prayer. For this reason the praying heart seeks the secret place often...there to pour forth, into the ear of God alone, the desires, longings, fears, joys which He can act upon.

A praying heart, as we have said, is a priceless treasure. It is also a privilege reserved for only those consecrated ones whose chiefest joy is to do the Lord's will and to keep abiding in Him. It is a great blessing, and a joy unspeakable!

Seek a praying heart—and when attained, cherish and protect it well.

World-wide Bible Fellowship Formed

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society announced on March 9 that local committees to foster its work are to be formed in churches and communities throughout the world. The idea for such committees, to be known as the American Bible Society Committee, came as an outgrowth of the unprecedented interest in Bible reading that has swept this country, largely as a result of the second Bible Reading program, from Thanksgiving to Christmas last year, which was conducted by the Bible Society. Nineteen other countries participated in the reading program.

Dr. J. Chapman Bradley, a secretary of the American Bible Society, reported a plan for increasing Bible reading on a world-wide scale received from former Chaplain Henry O. Theiss, now in this country following months of service abroad where he has seen first-hand results of Bible reading among Service men. Chaplain Theiss's plan, together with one originated by Dr. Bradley and implemented by the Society's district and field secretaries, has resulted in the program for the formation of the American Bible Society Committees.

This program is the logical answer to the many inquiries received from

pastors who have asked for concrete suggestions to promote Bible reading. A special leaflet, just off the press, The American Bible Society Committee, is now available to anyone interested in this project. The pastor may wish to work through a committee which he has appointed and which will be under his direction. However, the committee is not limited to the church and may begin with the work of an interested individual or can be developed as a community project.

Various plans are suggested, urging the daily reading of the Bible, new and effective means of distributing the Scriptures and plans for helping to spread information on the Society's program or furnishing Scriptures to all men in the language needed.

Many signs point to an increasing recognition of the need for the Bible at the center of life. Interested laymen who have come to know and believe in the Bible can do much to further its use. Local committees will be developed by the eighteen district, division, and field offices of the American Bible Society, and by co-operating state and city Bible Societies in this country and the foreign agencies of the American Bible Society abroad.

God's Red Lantern

By C. F. Wimberly, D. D.

A red lantern, or a red light, is a signal for travelers, or street walkers to stop; it means danger ahead. We were once on a train, and it stopped in the middle of a corn field. Down the tract was a red flag. We learned there was a wash-out farther ahead; the track walker had placed the signal warning. If this signal had been ignored, it would have meant disaster to our train and the loss of life, most certainly.

God has been sending or allowing devastating wars in the earth; also pestilences, earthquakes, and famines, which we should have heeded; but the race seems to be blind to signs, and goes on paying no attention to such warning and plunges on in madness and reckless living. We now have a most startling signal that has yet to be revealed—the atomic power, and its magnitude cannot be understood or appreciated. But it is obvious that this has been withheld for a last challenge and warning. Will we be wise and seek to understand what God surely wants to teach us? Civilization is in the balance and the slightest touch or blunder in international affairs may mean the end. If, as we are told, only one per cent of the atom's energy has been released when the full strength has been given out we can not visualize what it will mean. A bomb forty thousand times more powerful is in the making. We can now understand Peter's prophetic words:

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:10.

We believe it is a red lantern touching international affairs; it means the nations must get along with each other or else. That atomic energy, so potent, can be kept a secret with one nation is stupid. Scientists, the world over, are earnestly seeking to discover the hidden resources, and by-and-by the "stones of fire" will become known. Japan sent two thousand balloon bombs over on us, but most of them fell in the ocean and in forests. It only shows that distances, oceans, skies full of planes are no protection, once we become embroiled in an inter-

national mixup.

Again, it is a red lantern in our domestic relations. We are a great nation with patriotic ideals, and when danger rises on our horizon—we are a united nation, but we have a cross section of every creed, ism, and what not—atheistic, orthodox, modernistic, fascist, communist, and anything else to be found in the whole world. They claim protection of our flag and constitution, but they are as foreign to our national ideals as the most ardent Bolshevik of Russia, or any other place. We must learn to live internationally, and also we must learn to live with ourselves. The present situation reveals how unpatriotic is the whole economic order when selfish carnality is allowed to act. Our President seems powerless to stem the tide of malcontents in labor and capital. They ignore argument and appeals from any source. It is evident that our country is overcharged with divisive elements, and utterly indifferent to authority. It is deplorable that our nation is not capable of dealing with our own internal affairs.

Herein is the weakness of our democracy. Our Constitution guarantees too many privileges, and selfish groups and individuals take advantage of them and shelter behind such protection. A man once put a frozen snake in his bosom, and when the heat of his body thawed the frozen viper it stung him to death. "*Demos krates*"—the people rule is true, and the people are a law unto themselves, and nothing seems to be done about it. So the atomic bomb is the red lantern swinging in front of our cherished democracy. The world is no longer "safe for democracy." It is in the crucible with all our other institutions.

It is also the red lantern swinging in front of the church, and Christian civilization. It seems that the gods of destiny are angry and seeking revenge on every good thing. We have a remedy for all the danger signals, but it is not in statecraft, diplomacy, international strategy, or peace tables. All

such are but "scraps of paper" when in the control of ambitious militarists.

The church, which is the one agency for the moral and spiritual battles of the world—when she begins to question the fundamental doctrines which are her foundation—is like an army going into battle without guns or ammunition. It is the "Word of God that is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart," Heb. 4:12. It is the only power for the breaking down of the strongholds of Satan. An emaciated, diluted message, uncertain about everything, will not meet the demands. We need as never before a *positive faith in a positive truth*. We have gone too far already with our Laodicean programs—a neither hot nor cold attitude. If the church meets her obligation, she will have to come out from the dangers of "no man's land" to the mount of vision—where the mirage of God's revelation will see over and beyond all the clouds.

Then, in the last place, we believe the unleashing of this frightful agency of destruction is God's red lantern swinging in front of a world that has lost its ways. In its wilderness wanderings there are no pillars of cloud and fire to guide, as was given the children of Israel—long ago. Using the slang of common parlance, the whole world has gone *haywire*, meaning a restless, confused, bewildered mind, selfish greed, inordinate ambition—where the thought of others is lost in mad passion for possession, power and rulership. The war spirit, more terrible in each cycle of twenty-five years, like a great orchestra swelling higher and higher, reaching a climax for the finale—the Armageddon is in the offing. General MacArthur's prophetic warning should be heeded—"We have had our last chance."—*Midnight Cry*.

REVIVAL

SWEETWATER, Tenn.—I just closed a revival at Sweetwater, Tenn. The Lord surely blessed, and we give Him all the praise for what was accomplished in the revival.

There were sixteen saved, eight sanctified, and six filled with the Holy Ghost.

Rev. Caraway is the pastor at the Church of God in Sweetwater.—Evangelist Joseph W. West, 708 Spears Ave., Chattanooga, Tenn.

GOD'S VICTORY GARDEN

Text: "For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord: joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody," Isa. 51:3.

The Church of God in general is God's garden on earth. In this garden are many gardens. The bloodwashed souls are gardens of the Lord.

When God made man, he placed him in the garden of Eden, a garden of pleasure. He was perfect in his ways from the day he was created, until iniquity was found in him. Then he was driven out of the garden of God.

"And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put man whom he had formed," Gen. 2:8. In this garden God made to grow every tree that was pleasant to the sight, and good for food. There was plenty of fruit. And it was a place of paradise. The Church of God is compared to a garden, even the garden of Eden. Note: This garden did not grow up itself. "The Lord God planted it." Made to grow in it every tree. Hence, the church does not "grow into" grace, but is "born into" it. All Christians are trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord.

In the Song of Solomon, the Church is compared to a garden several times. Mentioned first as "a garden enclosed, a spring shut up, and a fountain sealed." God's Church is a people separated from all evil. It is enclosed for safety, protected from Satan. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Here I'm reminded of the words of the poet, "A wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear." Praise God forever! God's vineyard is fenced in. Isa. 5:2.) Note: The spring is shut up, and a fountain sealed. Thus they cannot be polluted by the hands of those who would attempt to do so. The grace of God in our hearts is protected by the mighty power of God. The believer is "hid away with Christ in God." A spring shut up; not to be muddled by exposing it to the enemy. This spring gets its flow from God, from the "fountain sealed." He is the fountain of gardens, a well of living waters.

God did not plant trees in the garden and leave them to wither and die, but He sent a river out of Eden to water the garden. Just so with His

By Mrs. W. L. Myers

Church. He will comfort her waste places and make her wilderness and deserts like the garden of Eden, or the garden of the Lord. If we stay in tune with heaven, our souls will be as a watered garden, or as a "tree planted by the river, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Then we hear the Church pray: "Awake, O north wind; and come thou south; blow upon my garden that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruit." Oh, how precious is this prayer, falling from the lips of God's holy Church! a prayer to be repeated by each individual Christian today. "O Spirit of God, blow upon my soul, that the heavenly influence thereof may flow out." When God's Spirit blows upon a sanctified soul, it sends forth a gale that stirs the hearts of men and women. As a beautiful garden of flowers sends forth its fragrance when gently moved about by the breezes, our souls should be so full of sweetness that when God's Spirit breathes upon it, a pleasing, balmy perfume will fill the atmosphere with Christian influence, effecting those around us, making them desire to become a plant in God's great garden.

Our garden is His garden. We are not our own, "for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." And again we are told to "do all that we do to the glory of God." Note carefully, "Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit," remembering always that we belong to God, and the price He paid for us was great. If we fail to glorify God in any way, then we ignore the price He paid, which is the shed blood of the Son of God. And to ignore the shed blood means damnation to our soul. To glorify God in our body means that we are not to allow any member of our body to move in any way contrary to the teachings of the Bible. All our acts are to be pleasing in His sight. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none

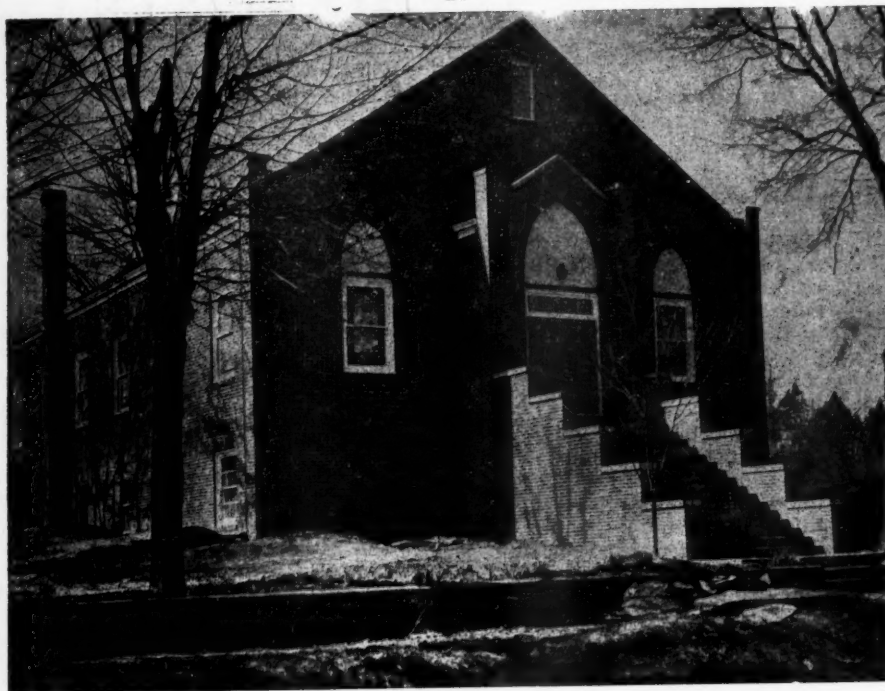
offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved," 1 Cor. 10:31-33.

We are not to put anything on the body that would not glorify God. Neither are we to leave anything off the body that would not be pleasing to God. We are to glorify God in our manner of dress, according to the Scripture. You remember the Church prayed and invited God to come into His garden and eat His pleasant fruit. Can YOU, O Child of God; YOU, who have been bought with so great a price, dress after the extreme fashions of the world, invite God to look on, and eat of HIS pleasant fruit? Can YOU, O beautiful plant, whose head has been crowned with glory, cut off that crown of glory which was given to you for a "covering"; sweep it up and burn it, then invite God to come into His garden and eat His pleasant fruit? Can YOU, who was once blind, whose eyes God has opened, and shined His wonderful light upon the blessed pages of His eternal Word, turn aside from His precious truths for one minute to defile your mind with "COMICS" and other unclean reading matters, then invite God to come into His garden and "eat HIS pleasant fruits?" ("His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night," Psalms 1:2.) Can YOU, who have believed with your heart, and with your mouth made confession, indulge in filthy and unholy conversations, then with the same mouth invite God to eat of HIS PLEASANT fruit? If this is the kind of fruit you are bearing, you need not invite the beloved Saviour, for He cannot digest that kind of fruit.

If your garden is polluted with fruits that cannot glorify God, then you need to call in some saints to help you work your garden. Perhaps your garden needs a good "hoeing." Or it may need the "plow." Do something. For the sake of the blood of Jesus, don't "turn it out." (A farmer's term when his crop is beyond working.) Pray until everything that God would frown on is moved out. Then invite the beloved Savior to eat of HIS PLEASANT fruit. God will beautify your garden,

(Continued on page 14)

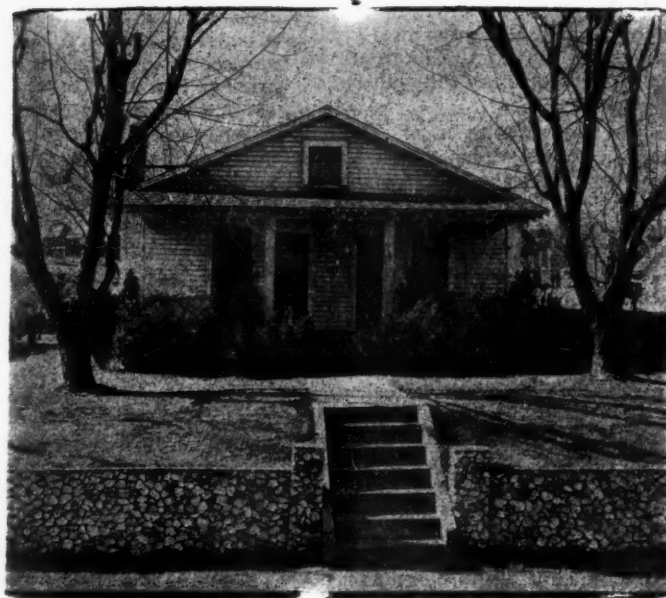
NEW CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, S. CLEVELAND, TENN., CHURCH OF GOD



REV. J. A. BIXLER
Pastor, South Cleveland
Church of God

From the buildings seen, you can get some idea of what the Lord has done for us here at Headquarters, at the South Cleveland church. We came here about eighteen months ago, from Sylacauga, Ala., to pastor. We had no parsonage here then, and no furniture. The church purchased a parsonage the first Sunday night I was here and mentioned it to them, on South Ocoee Street. It has six rooms and a bath. The kitchen has built-in, all metal cabinets and sink. The L.W.W.B. got busy and we purchased furniture and now have it nicely furnished with modern furniture, including an electric range; it is also oil heated by a large oil circulator, and every dollar for the furniture has been paid long ago. The present-day value of this parsonage is around \$4,500.

We feel that God directed us to Cleveland and never felt more in God's will in all of our twenty-two years as a pastor in the Church of God. We found that we also needed a new church building here and we took the matter up with the church. We had an all-day drive and dinner and raised over \$2,000 cash that day, with which to start. We bought a fine, new location on South Ocoee Street, which is hard-surfaced, about six blocks from the courthouse. A good Baptist lady owned it and asked \$4,000 but gave us \$500 on it, so we bought it for \$3,500. We sold the old church house for the same amount, so we paid off this debt and were free to build. We now have, as you see, one of the best and as beautiful a church house as can be found anywhere in the Church of God. We had, as our first service in the new house, our Christ-mas program, December 24, 1945.



The new church is 74x44 feet, and is made of concrete blocks with brick veneer throughout. It is almost fire-proof. It has full daylight basement, all plastered walls, and cellotex ceiling. We have eight Sunday School rooms, two modern rest rooms, 12-foot hall running clear through the building, large furnace room, (Continued on page 15)

REPORTS *From the Field*

FREEPORT, Tex.—I live here at Freeport, and I wonder if there are any Church of God people anywhere near here. If so, I would be glad to get acquainted with you. I live on Fourth Street, at Help Yourself Laundry. I attend service at the Assembly of God Church, but will always be Church of God. Dear saints, I need your prayers. My children are in sin; also my husband. The children, it seems, are so careless, but God can save them. Please pray for them, and if anyone sees this who lives in Freeport, come to see me. Let's work together.—Mrs. Lee James, 722 W. 4th St.

Good Report From Williamson, West Virginia

WILLIAMSON, W. Va.—It is my great pleasure to make a report of the work at Williamson, W. Va. Since New Year's Eve, when one received the Holy Ghost, there has been a constant revival atmosphere. One week later, Brother J. C. Ward began a three and one-half weeks' revival in which God blessed. As a result there were twelve saved, ten sanctified, ten filled with the Holy Ghost, eleven added to the church, and eleven baptized in water.

Since that time we have had fifteen saved, twelve sanctified, twelve filled with the Holy Ghost. The total taken into the church has risen to twenty-five and twenty-four baptized in water. Such fellowship and unity is hard to find. The large payment on the property is always met with ease.

We feel that these blessings are as a reward given these saints for their faithful work and their loyalty. Please pray for us.—L. W. Cooper, pastor, 202 Short St.

District Convention a Blessing

We are pleased to report that our district convention, although now history, was really a blessing to all who attended. Brother V. D. Combs, our district pastor, was in charge.

We met Friday evening with a hunger and desire for the presence of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the blessed Holy Ghost. We were not disappointed, for God truly blessed.

Our beloved overseer, Rev. R. P. Johnson, spoke for the first message

of the convention. We cannot tell all the good we received from the message.

Saturday afternoon was spent in a round-table discussion, and again good was derived by the laity and ministry on receiving instructions about God and His Church.

A large delegation met Saturday evening and this service was wholly devoted to our young people. After a wonderful song service and special singing, Sister Elsie Creech, of Wilmington, spoke to the youth about having a "go ye forward" zeal for God. This was uplifting to all. The reports of the different Y.P.E. groups were then given, and Brother Elrod, pastor at Broad Creek, addressed the youth with a wonderful message. Brother Millard Mainer, pastor at Morehead City, climaxed the evening with a good exhortation and altar call.

Sunday morning, we had a discussion on the Sunday School lesson by Brother Frank Petrucelli, pastor at Bladenboro No. 1. This was followed by other speakers, and, last but not least, a wonderful message on missions was delivered by Brother R. P. Johnson. The amount raised was \$1,500, for which all the glory is given to Christ.

We, on the Wilmington District, have a mission spirit and are looking for great results this year. This is the greatest mission offering ever taken on this district. All the pastors reported on their churches and every one is on the increase and still going forward.

Surely it was good to be at the convention, for God was there.

Pray much for our district. Watch us grow, and look for a great report by the state meeting. — Reporter, Sophia Petrucelli, Box 411, Bladenboro, N. C.

Cairo, Ga., District Convention

The Cairo, Ga., district convention started March 2 and ran through Sunday, March 3, with Brother J. L. Ball in charge. We had a wonderful convention. We had many preachers, some of our oldest—Brother J. W. Culpepper and Brother T. S. Payne. The state overseer, Brother A. V. Beaube, had sickness in his home and could

not be with us, which we regretted so much, but the Lord was with us.

We raised a \$249.40 district mission offering. We have some fine people to work with here. Every church on the district was represented, I believe. We had a fine dinner, good music and singing, and Bro. Ball certainly did lift our souls to God with his wonderful messages.

Pray for us at Cairo, Ga. — J. B. Weeks, Cairo, Ga.

Faxon, Okla., Gives Good Report of Work

FAXON, Okla.—Greetings from the Church of God at Faxon, Okla.

The Sunday School and church here at Faxon like the new literature for the intermediate and junior classes and have ordered the Sunny Paths for the next quarter.

We are also glad to report that our Sunday School is growing, not only in number but in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom we give all the praise.

Our church has shown a great improvement since our good pastor and his good wife, Brother and Sister W. L. Mackey, have been with us. They have been with us about a year now and have really been a blessing to us here.

We are expecting greater things here at Faxon. No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly, who put their trust in Him, the blessed Christ of glory.

When you pray, remember us here at Faxon. May God richly bless the Church of God movement here in Oklahoma and throughout all the world. May God's grace be with us all. —Geo. L. Williams, secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRY BOARDS

No. 1. Size 21x24 inches, made of beautiful grained fiber; with slides and numerals. Price \$5.00, plus postage.

No. 2. A beautiful plywood grained board, size 24x30 inches; with slides and numerals. Price \$6.00, plus postage.

No. 3. A beautiful grained board, slightly better in quality, size 21x30 inches, with slides and numerals. Price \$6.00, plus postage.

Church of God Pub. House
Cleveland, Tenn.

REVIVALS

SHADY GROVE, La.—We truly thank the Lord for our Y.P.E. We have a wonderful group of young people who are really trying to do something for the Lord. By the able help of Sis. Foster and Sis. Dooley as group captains, we have an outstanding Y.P.E. The attendance is very good, and we have full cooperation. Brother Gates and family have been a great blessing to our Y.P.E.

We have just closed a revival with Bro. and Sis. Floyd doing the preaching. Every sermon was greatly enjoyed by all. Eight gave their testimony of being saved, and the church was greatly revived.

WHITE CLOUD, Mich.—White Cloud has been blessed for three weeks with a spiritual outpouring from the Lord. Truly the Holy Ghost has been in our midst. There were refillings, and the Lord saved nine, sanctified thirteen, and twelve were filled with the Holy Ghost, while four were added to the church. Sis. Mary Wilson was the evangelist. The power of God anointed the giving of His Word. We feel the Lord pressing us on, together with our good pastor, Rev. John Page, to greater victory.—Ida Ringler, church clerk, Rt. 3.

SAINT PAULS, N. C.—We have just closed a very successful two weeks' revival with Sister Sophia Petrucelli, of Bladenboro, N. C., as the evangelist. The Lord was with us in a great way.

Eighteen were saved, six were sanctified, one filled with the Holy Ghost, and eight baptized in water. Seven were added to the church. The Lord is really blessing us at Saint Pauls.

We closed the revival on Monday night with observance of the Lord's Supper and feet washing.—Rev. Collin J. Kelly.

MIDDLESEX, N. C.—Dear Evangel Readers, the Church of God at Middlesex, North Carolina, has closed a three weeks' revival with Sister E. H. Babbs as evangelist.

The church was greatly blessed by her soul-stirring messages. Ten were saved, three sanctified, three filled with the Holy Ghost, and seven added

to the church. The attendance was good during the revival. She preached on missions one Sunday morning, and one lady gave her watch, another gave the money she had saved for slippers, and the offering, besides that, amounted to about \$50.—Miss Mavis Hopkins, Rt. 2.

BAYOU LA BATRE, Alabama—The Church of God at Bayou La Batre, Ala., has just closed an old-fashioned revival. Four were saved, two sanctified, three filled with the Holy Ghost, and the church was revived and stirred. Many are looking toward the Church of God here now.

The altar is yet filled with many seekers praying through. Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Glisson, of Magee, Miss., and Rev. Easterling, of Flora, Miss., conducted the revival for us. They are really Spirit-filled and have that zeal and unction to preach, pray, and sing the old-fashioned way.

Some were called to the ministry by the Holy Ghost and some were healed of various kinds of sickness, while the revival was in progress.—H. E. Lambert, pastor, Box 970.

HOT SPRINGS, N. Mex.—Just a few words to let you know that God is the same great wonder-working God out here in the deserts of New Mexico as He is anywhere.

We came to the church here in September, and, shortly after, began a revival. We did not have a large number converted, but several were saved and sanctified. The meeting ran three weeks. When we closed this meeting we kept praying and fasting for our revival to begin in December, with Rev. Hilton Vail as evangelist. This revival started the first week in December and ran four weeks. There were six or seven saved and several sanctified. One man joined the church. Brother and Sister Vail were at their best, and my, we did enjoy their inspirational singing and music. Also, Brother Vail's timely messages greatly benefited the church.

We closed this meeting and one week later began a revival with Rev. L. G. Rouse as evangelist. My, how his deep, heart-searching messages fed our

souls! He was with us only eleven nights, but long will live the memory of his visit here with us. Many were healed of various diseases and blessed in various manners.

I had a throat condition that had existed for seven or eight years and I was healed while Brother Rouse was here. I was also healed of a condition which caused me to have terrible sick headaches.

My little boy Jimmie had been very sick with something that closely resembled infantile paralysis. I had no doctor so do not know for sure, but he did have a high fever and his body would draw and he was unconscious for several hours. He also had a hard convulsion along with it. After three days he was so weak and still quite sick, when Brother Rouse arrived. He told him to get up out of bed and believe he was healed. He obeyed, and was healed. Praise God!

A lady was healed of sugar diabetes. You may contact her at Box 705, Hot Springs, N. Mex. Mrs. Ruth Manning was, for seventeen years, bothered with this disease. Her feet were so sore she could hardly wear a shoe at the time she came for prayer. One toe had burst open and turned black. All the leaders were rotted away in it. Brother Rouse told her to stamp her foot. She obeyed and was healed.

Another was healed of asthma. A lady was healed of a pinched spine she had for twenty years. A man and woman who each had a tumor on their brain were both healed. An elderly lady who had asthma for many years testifies that she has had no asthma since he prayed for her. There are many more whom I cannot remember, but these few will suffice to show that God is working out here and still is willing to heal if He can find someone through whom He can work.

Pray for us in our work out here. We plan to start another revival in March, with Brother Jack Drake, our state Y.P.E. and Sunday School superintendent, in charge. Pray that God will give us a glorious revival.—Mrs. Fannie S. Foshee, pastor, Box 493.

BREWSTER, Ohio.—We have just closed another revival at Brewster, Ohio, Brother Carpenter, of Massillon, Ohio, being with us for two weeks. There were two saved, one reclaimed, and four added to the church, for which we thank and praise the Lord. Pray for our church here.—Mrs. Orvel Kerby, clerk, Rt. 2, Navarre, Ohio.

TESTIMONIES

Praising God for Goodness and Healing Power

BARNARDSVILLE, N. C.—Dear saints of God everywhere, greetings in Jesus' dear name. I'm praising God tonight for His goodness to me, and for His healing power. Just before Christmas, my little daughter was very sick with intestinal flu. Her fever was 103. It seemed she was getting worse every day.

One night I began to call on God and asked Him to heal her. I placed an anointed cloth on her body, and prayed for her as best I could. Her fever left her before day and she began to ask for something to eat. She improved rapidly until she was completely well. I'm giving the dear Lord the praise and honor for healing her. Bless His dear name.

Please pray for me, that I'll ever be true to my Savior.—Mrs. Rogers, Rt. 1, Box 16.

Looking for the Soon Coming of Our Lord

PITTS, Ga.—Ever since my Lord saved me I have been anxious to do something for Him, and have been serving Him with all my heart. I am happy in Him and found the Pearl of great price and my soul has been rejoicing ever since. A few months ago, in a dream, the Lord gave me a vision of how near we were to the end of the way. I am sure our Lord will soon appear; although we don't know the day or the hour, yet we know everything is pointing to the soon coming of our Lord and a glad new day will dawn for God's children and joy supernal will begin to never end. Poor sinner, where will you appear and what will your answer be? "Thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art."

True, God has given us His Word and ministers of the gospel anointed to preach His Word, that every living soul should hear and have opportunity of this great salvation. The grace of God has appeared to all men. If we are not prepared to meet our Lord who gave His life for us, let us begin today to seek God, read His Word and make peace with Him while we have opportunity. Pray for me.—Lois Braziel, Rt. 1.

He Is Always the Same

LAKE CITY, Fla.—About a month ago my baby was very sick with the flu. We prayed for several days and God would bless her but she was not completely healed. One night while I prayed the thought came to me, if I would testify to it the Lord would heal my baby, so I promised God if He would heal her that I certainly would, and God completely healed her of the flu. I praise His holy name. He is always the same and He has promised to never leave nor forsake us.

If I know my heart, I want to serve Him in the future in a greater way than ever before. Please pray for my unsaved children, that they will be saved before it is too late.—Mrs. W. M. Christie, 803 E. Camp St.

Ask and Ye Shall Receive

ATLANTA, Ga.—I truly praise God for saving my soul, sanctifying and baptizing me with the Holy Ghost. He has been my healer for four years and He has never failed to heal me when I cried unto Him.

I thank the Lord for healing my side. About three weeks ago I stooped down and a catch caught me in my left side under my ribs. I could hardly move or turn about. I prayed and God touched my body. I felt better, and the next day God touched my body again. My husband, who is a sinner, begged me to let him get a doctor but I told him God was going to heal me for I was trusting Him. He said I could let the doctor look at me, that I wouldn't have to take any medicine, but I refused for I was not worried about myself. The Word says, "Ask and ye shall receive."

Tuesday morning I did my washing, all the pain is gone, and it has not returned. He has also healed me of many other things. I love the Lord and trust Him for everything. I want to do His will. Pray for me and for my husband who is lost.—Mrs. Nealie Lee, 393 Boulevard, S. E.

His Blood Is Sufficient

WALKER, La.—I thank and praise the Lord for His healing and cleansing power.

I was very seriously injured on August 24, 1944, and was not able to walk until Sunday, July 22, 1945. I

went down last Sunday night at about ten o'clock and dipped in the troubled water, or the Christ's blood that troubled the water, and was made whole again. It was still the same power that the disciples of John came and asked Jesus about, "Art thou the Christ, or do we look for another?" Jesus told of the many healings, and He is still healing. His blood is sufficient for me. I was made whole again; I am well and walked ten miles today, July 25, 1945. Pray for my family and me.—Jimmie Davis.

Thank You for Prayers

BOONEVILLE, Miss.—Dear saints of God, thank you all for your precious prayers for me. I feel better and Jesus has had mercy on me, for which I praise Him. I can't write to all who sent letters and anointed handkerchiefs, but God knows you, and that is best of all. So keep me on your prayer list, also my son in Japan. Four of my soldier boys are back home safe, by your good prayers. Thank the good Lord forever.—Anna Skelton, Route 4.

His Praise Is Wonderful

SKYLAND, N. C.—I praise the Lord for His healing power. One Saturday my little girl was playing and somehow she bumped her head on a rock. It started hurting her that night and nothing we would give her seemed to help it. It got so bad by Monday she could hardly stand on her feet. She would turn blind when she would get up.

I laid the Evangel on her head and prayed for her. I promised the Lord if He would heal her I would testify of it, and the next morning she was well as ever and her head hasn't hurt her any since. I just praise the Lord for His wonderful healing power.—Mrs. Viola Stephenson, Rt. 1.

Look to the Lord for Both Body and Soul

MCDONALD, Tenn.—Recently Brotherly Basel Cantrell, Brother, Robert Murray and I were called to go over near Grasshopper to pray for a sister who had been in bed for four months with T. B.

We prayed for her and the Lord healed her body. Some people were wanting our address: George Bancroft, Basel Cantrell, and Robert Murray, Rt. 1, McDonald, Tenn.

JERUSALEM, THE BIBLICAL CENTER OF THE NATIONS

(Continued from page 5)

fore Christ's glorious millennial reign? In this battle God meets "Gog" of Russia's hordes, who goes down in ignominious defeat before our conquering Lord. (Please read both Ezek. 38 and 39, with Zech. 12:1 to 4 and 14:1 to 9.) This will end man's long misrule on earth. Then might Israel again burst forth in song: "I will sing of the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously" (Ex. 15:1).

What should the Christian's attitude be amidst all this world confusion and in view of coming events? Luke 21:28 is the answer. "Look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh." Yes, His coming draweth nigh, and "He that shall come will come and will not tarry." We must not be dismayed by "wars and rumors of war," nor by the atomic bomb, for He Who fashioned the multi-trillions of atoms and fastened them together by divine power, and Who "upholds all things by the might of His power," will see us safely home. Until that glad day then, let us walk softly before the Lord as we humbly seek to do His will, and worship at His pierced feet.

GOD'S VICTORY GARDEN

(Continued from page 9)

as He spoke of in Isaiah 61:3, "... to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

If we glorify God in our spirit, it is very easy to glorify Him in our body, for the Spirit of God brings the body under subjection. If we walk in the Spirit, we shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh, for the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh. If we get enough of the Spirit of Christ in us, it will overpower and uproot that old stubborn, hateful spirit. "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." Then we no longer desire vainglory, but rather seek to glorify our Father which is in heaven.

The fruit of the Spirit is joy and gladness. "Joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody." "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making

melody in your hearts to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," Eph. 5:18-20. This is the only way to have a VICTORY garden.

COMMON SENSE ABOUT BUILDING PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 3)

3. One should beware as the heaven of the Pharisees the tremendously widespread fallacy that a prettier building or a better location will attract people to God. A beautiful building will draw people to the church, but it is only "Christ, if He be lifted up," that will draw people to God. You can not keep people away from the place where the saving, healing, baptizing power of God is working.

Let me say the same thing in another way, to make it doubly clear: A church building is a means to an end, just as a furnace is a means of keeping warm. One doesn't junk his old furnace and put in a bigger one unless the old one is not heating the home properly. A church building is a means of housing the people who come to worship God, and as long as it houses them and gives reasonable promise of housing them in the future, there can seldom be justification for launching a building program. I often am forced to the conclusion that pride enters into the desire of a pastor for a larger and more beautiful building when his average audience only half or two-thirds fills his present one and is not growing. The remedy, obviously, is for him to look for the shortcoming somewhere else, and when it is found the numbers will begin to increase and the need for the new building will be felt; then he may confidently go ahead.

Which of us has not seen a small, struggling group burning with the fire of God, build a fine building in a good location and just seem to lose something of its spirituality and zeal from that time forward? And which of us has not seen a growing, active group with all the power and zeal that one could hope for, meeting in equally as fine a building? (The most consistent and powerful operation of the Holy Spirit it has been my personal privilege to enjoy was in a \$150,000 church with rugs throughout.) The reason for that difference is the main point of this whole article. In the first instance they set their hearts on a fine building, made the building an

end in itself, rather than simply an adequate means of housing the people. In the second instance they kept the building in its proper place as merely a necessity, incidental to God's work, and kept their affections first on Christ.

FAITHFUL

Mrs. W. B. Bell, born October 16, 1870, departed this life in Valdosta, Ga., October 11, 1945, after three weeks of serious illness. Although Sister Bell had been in feeble health for several months before her death, she was a regular attendant at the services of the church she had loved and worked for during the past thirty-six years. When the Church of God first came to Valdosta, in 1909, she was a member of another denomination that taught sanctification and she became interested in a deeper experience, so in a little mission hall where the Church of God was organized she received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and was one of the charter members in the organization.

Her life was one of real blessing to all with whom she came in contact, and her faithfulness to the church and its pastors over the years has helped make the church at Valdosta what it is today. Her consecrated life to God caused her to always yield to the leadings of the Spirit of God, and many Holy Ghost services were enriched by her presence in them and the work of the Holy Ghost through her.

She is missed very much in the services of the church, but we know without a shadow of a doubt that our loss is heaven's gain and that on that great and cloudless morning when the dead are raised in Christ Jesus we shall see dear Mother Bell again and have the sweet companionship of her presence throughout the endless age of eternity. God bless her family is our prayer.—Her pastor for nearly three years, L. O. Peck, Box 22, Valdosta, Ga.

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(Continued from page 10)

and coal bin. We have the most modern hot air type furnace, with 21-inch blower; also 65-pound stoker costing \$1,698 installed.

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This building is valued at from \$25,000 to \$35,000 now. God is blessing in every service. Many are finding God. Our Sunday School has gone to 235 and we believe it is going on to 300.

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utes on Sunday from the church, which has proven a great blessing to our work.

We are having a fund-raising and dedicatory service April 7, 1946, with all-day service, many special singers and musicians, and dinner served at the church. We are expecting a great day. Everyone is invited to attend. Rev. Vep Ellis is now with us in the third week of a fine revival. Many are being blessed. Pray for us here to keep in God's will and rescue every soul we possibly can in the closing hours of this dispensation.

We never worked among a finer group of people than these. They have stood by us loyally and we believe love us and we love them.—J. A. Bixler, pastor.

TESTIMONIES

Jesus Never Fails

COOKEVILLE, Tenn.—Praise God for healing me. I praise God for His healing power. About two weeks ago, I had a hurting around my heart, and I would smother so I could hardly get my breath. I was prayed for, and I got better, and then I sent in a request for prayer, and I was healed,

praise the Lord. I have been trusting Him for nearly four years, and He never fails, praise His dear name. I have been saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost four years, and the way grows sweeter every day, praise His good name. I want to live closer, and let my light shine that the world might see that I am living for Jesus.

I am praising Him for His many blessings that I have received. It surely is wonderful to live for Jesus. Pray for me that I will be drawn closer to Jesus and be a soul winner, for I want to live that I will be a great light to this lost and dying world. Pray for my father that he will get saved. Continue to pray that I will gain more strength in my body.—Miss Myrtle Wilson, 714 E. Broad St.

Healed of Epilepsy

LOGAN, W. Va.—Dear Evangel Readers, I thank the Lord for healing my body of epileptic fits. I am getting along fine now. I am going to school every day. It has been over two years since I have been healed.—A girl twelve years old, Thelma Jean Bennet, Box 892.

TUCSON, ARIZONA, CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL



Arizona is now in the process of building some new church buildings and remodeling the old ones. The above picture is that of the Tucson Sunday School. New Sunday School rooms are being added to this fine church which is nearing completion. The Tucson church and Sunday School are growing in interest and members, under the leadership of their capable pastor, Rev. C. B. Burton.—O. C. Crank, state overseer.

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